

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 INR-07 NSC-05 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SP-02 /043 W
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O 200719Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8960
INFO CINCUNC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SEOUL 6475

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, KN, US, MARR, MOPS
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO PRESIDENT PARK

1. IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 206294,
GENERAL STILWELL AND I SAW PRESIDENT PARK THIS MORNING.
THE PRESIDENT WAS BRIEFED ON THE ACTIONS UNDERWAY (B-52
AND F-111) AND THE TENTATIVE PLANS FOR THE TREE REMOVAL.
ON THIS LAST ITEM, THE PRESIDENT WAS INFORMED ON A COUPLE
OF OCCASIONS THAT NO "EXECUTE" MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED.
THE PRESIDENT SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME ASKING QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE JSA AREA.

2. IN ADDITION, HE REPEATED SEVERAL POINTS HE MADE TO
GENERAL STILWELL YESTERDAY CONCERNING:

A. HIS DEEP REGRETS FOR NORTH KOREA'S BARBAROUS ACTIONS
AND HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD
OFFICERS.

B. HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE FIRM POSITION BEING TAKEN
BY THE USG.

C. HIS VIEW (REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES) THAT A
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RESPONSE CONSISTING ONLY OF PROTESTS WOULD INVITE

FURTHER PROVOCATIONS, BUT THAT THE PLAN FOR THE TREE REMOVAL WOULD SHOW FIRMNESS AND RESOLVE WHICH WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE NORTH.

D. HIS HOPE, WHICH HE SAID IS PROBABLY WISTFUL, THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD APOLOGIZE AND PROMISE TO INSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPETITION OF THE INCIDENT. WE SHOULD HOWEVER CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS GOAL.

E. HIS FIRM BELIEF THAT RESPONSE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO PRESENT PLANS AND THAT ESCALATION SHOULD ONLY EVOLVE IF NORTH ESCALATES (E.G. BY FIRING). IF NORTH DOES NOT RESPOND, THEN THE MATTER DROPS.

3. THE PRESIDENT HAD NO SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY USG. HE SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH USG POSTURE AND ACTIONS. HE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS THE TREE REMOVAL TO BE ESSENTIAL. STERN

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